Medicine Hat
The Gas City

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 22, 2005

CITY RELEASES 2006 ANNUAL REPORT, REPORT TO RESIDENTS

Report Celebrates Medicine Hat's 100 Years of Incorporation

Medicine Hat – The City of Medicine Hat today released its 2006 Annual Report.

Highlights of the 2006 Annual Report are:

- City assets grew by $131.3 million to $1.34 billion and total equity increased to $1.03 billion.
- Capital investment of $124.4 million in natural gas, electric, roads, sidewalks and storm sewers.
- Tax-supported debt per capita increased to $517 and utilities supported debt per capita increased to $2,711.
- Cash investment portfolio earned 4.18 per cent exceeding the benchmark of 3.47 per cent by 20 per cent.
- Gas Production subsidized property taxes by $25 million and utility rates by $18.5 million.
- Developed e-Services applications that provide residents/customers the capability to conduct City business 24 hours per day seven days per week.
- An Alternative Energy Review was completed and the recommendations were adopted by City Council.
- Identified Quality of Life indicators to gauge the effective delivery of public policy.
- Enhanced customer service through the expansion of the Permit Approval and Tracking System.
- Began a development of a Human Resources Information System to improve reporting capability.
- Developed "Smart Growth" principles to guide development.
- Launched a revised, employee-centred Intranet to improve the delivery of information to employees.
- Developed succession planning strategies.

"2006 was an eventful year filled with successes made possible by the knowledgeable and dedicated staff that serve the residents of Medicine Hat on a daily basis," said Gerry Labas, Chief Administrative Officer.

"Not only did we continue to grow and thrive, 2006 was a year to celebrate Medicine Hat's 100 years as a city," says Mayor Garth Vallely. "This annual report pays tribute to our history and provides a glimpse of the future direction for the City so we will continue to thrive for another 100 years."

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In addition to the 108 page report, a condensed Report to Residents, which includes the Consolidate Financial Statements, is being delivered to Medicine Hat residences on May 29. Copies of the 2006 Annual Report and Annual Report to Residents are available for download on the City's website www.medicinehat.ca. They are also available from the City Clerk Office at City Hall.

"We are looking ahead and planning for continued success in 2007," adds Labas. "Council has asked Administration to focus on alternative energy options, smart growth, a water management strategy, quality of life indicators, a waste diversion strategy, and community targets for environmental stewardship. Council continues to plan for the community's future growth."

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